

PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

*FOR THE YEAR 1971*

---

F. J. HALLINAN,  
M.B.E. (Mil.), M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,  
*Area Medical Officer No. 7 Area,  
Monmouthshire.  
District Medical Officer,  
Pontypool Urban District.*

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
PONTYPOOL,  
MON.

APRIL, 1972.



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## STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1971

Area of District	..	..	..	15,907 acres
Rateable Value (1.4.'71)	..	..	..	£1,205,464
Estimated Product of 1p. rate (1.4.'71)	..	..	..	£11,050
Number of inhabited houses (1.4.'71)	..	..	..	13,492
Population (Estimated mid-1971)	..	..	..	36,850
Number of live births (1971)	..	..	..	544
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	14.8
Number of illegitimate live births	..	..	..	33
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	6%
Number of stillbirths	..	..	..	12
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	22
Total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	556
Number of infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	..	..	..	10
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	18.0
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	..	..	..	13.0
Perinatal mortality (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	..	..	..	32
Number of maternal deaths (including abortion)	..	..	..	NIL
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	NIL
Number of deaths (1971)	..	..	..	502
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	13.6

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Natural Increase</i>
1952	699	507	192
1953	683	466	217
1954	628	480	148
1955	563	510	53
1956	571	543	78
1957	593	475	118
1958	623	461	162
1959	569	471	98
1960	587	498	89
1961	649	517	132
1962	632	481	151
1963	675	512	163
1964	661	501	160
1965	694	467	227
1966	603	508	95
1967	556	451	105
1968	560	531	29
1969	551	517	34
1970	529	473	56
1971	544	502	42

# PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Councillors:

Chairman: J. W. HAYCOCK

Vice-Chairman: A. PARRY

## Wards:

### *Garndiffaith:*

C. LITTLE

R. T. G. WATKINS

G. I. MILES

### *Abersychan:*

W. BERRY

J. J. MILES

A. PARRY

### *Snatchwood:*

S. W. BALL

W. M. GEORGE

E. H. PARKER

### *Wainfelin:*

D. J. COTTRELL

H. J. ROSSER

C. G. THOMAS

### *Pontypool:*

G. M. DAY

J. C. LEAHY

Mrs. M. P. WELLS

P. J. YOUNG

### *Pontymoile:*

W. L. JACKSON, M.M., B.E.M.

Mrs. M. L. LEE, M.B.E., J.P.

### *Griffithstown:*

G. S. EVANS

C. J. R. IRVING, J.P.

### *Sebastopol:*

Mrs. A. M. MOORE

J. L. WHITTINGTON

### *New Inn:*

J. W. HAYCOCK

G. S. R. POWELL

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Public Health Committee is a major Committee and is comprised of all Members of the Council

*Chairman* : Councillor J. J. Miles

*Vice-Chairman* : Councillor J. C. Leahy

Public Health Committee Meeting :—Six Weekly

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health .. F. J. HALLINAN, M.B.E. (Mil.),  
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.),  
D.P.H. (Wales).

*Official Address*: Municipal Offices, Pontypool.

*Telephone*: Pontypool 3411 (Ext. 40).

Chief Public Health Inspector .. J. M. WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I.

*Official Address*: Municipal Offices, Pontypool.

*Telephone*: Pontypool 3411 (Ext. 41).

District Public Health Inspector.. B. GILFORD, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.  
M.R.I.P.H. & H.

District Public Health Inspector.. J. M. JONES, Cert. R.S.I.

District Public Health Inspector.. D. H. THOMAS, Cert. **p**.H.I.E.B.

Student Public Health Inspector.. D. K. SEABOURNE

Student Public Health Inspector.. D. B. DOBBS

Enforcement Officer .. .. J. K. CRAIK, ESQ.

Clerk to the Department .. MRS. E. B. DAVIES

Clerk / Typist .. .. MISS K. E. HARRIS

The Chief Public Health Inspector and District Inspector D. H. THOMAS possess the Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

## OTHER COUNCIL OFFICIALS

Clerk to the Council .. .. M. B. MEHTA, ESQ.,  
(Barrister-at-Law)  
(appointed 1971)  
H. COOK, ESQ. (Solicitor)  
(resigned 1971)

Treasurer and Accountant .. .. E. A. KEELEY, ESQ.,  
F.I.M.T.A.

Engineer and Surveyor .. .. W. BROWN, ESQ., C.ENG.  
A.M.I.MUN.E. A.M.I.C.E.

Architect .. .. A. Y. PITTS, ESQ.,  
A.R.I.B.A., A.I.Arb.

Parks Superintendent .. .. W. R. DADGE, ESQ.  
F.INST.P.A.,

Housing Officer .. .. T. P. JONES, ESQ., A.I..H.M.

**ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**for the**  
**URBAN DISTRICT OF PONTYPOOL**  
**for the year ending 31st December, 1971.**

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Pontypool Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure that I present my 23rd annual public health report for your district for the year 1971.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, and complies with instructions contained in Circular 1/72 dated 3rd January, 1972, from the Health and Social Work Department of the Welsh Office.

**General Comments**

The year was notable for the few notifications received in respect of the commoner notifiable diseases of childhood. A handful of notifications were received in respect of whooping cough but this tiny outbreak gave no cause for alarm. The few notifications of infective hepatitis were about equally divided between children and adults, showed a sporadic distribution in the district and exhibited no discoverable common epidemiological relationship. In each case epidemiological enquiries revealed that no patient had, in the six months prior to onset, received injections or been in hospital where blood or blood products might have been administered.

Respiratory tuberculosis notifications for the year were exactly the same as in each of the previous three years and numbered five (2 males and 3 females). This similarity in incidence for this disease over the rather prolonged period of four years suggests a hardcore of tuberculous infection in the population which is resisting the present efforts at eradication. This situation is not peculiar to this district and represents the situation generally with this disease in this country. It must be accepted that tuberculosis is not yet a disease of the past and still presents a problem in preventive medicine which needs careful watching if an upsurge in notifications is to be avoided in the future.

There was no epidemic incidence of influenza in the district during the year.



This was the first full working year for the new Gwent Water Board and it is noted that the public supplies of water to this district were adequate both in quantity and quality throughout the period. There is no measurable naturally occurring fluoride in our water supplies and this is reflected as a dental handicap in the children of the area. No doubt the Local Health Authority, who are responsible for correcting this deficiency, will have this problem in mind for attention in the not too distant future.

The slum clearance programme for the district was energetically pushed ahead during the year by the representation of a further 63 unfit properties. In all during the year 78 closing or demolition orders were made on unfit properties and 32 were dealt with in confirmed clearance or compulsory purchase orders. We are now well into the last quarter of our stock of unfit houses, having already accounted for 1,678 in the last 15 years. It may not be realised that we have got rid of an excess of 1 in 10 of our inhabited houses in this district under slum clearance in that period. Improvement Grants were availed of extensively during the year and exceeded the number for previous years. No doubt the introduction of the 75% grant during the year was the main reason for the increased number of applications for grants.

The occurrence of cholera on the continent gave rise to much surveillance work on holiday makers returning to the district from Spain and elsewhere during the year. Difficulty was experienced very often in contacting these people as home visits revealed all the occupants to be away all day at work resulting in abortive calls and re-visiting at night after normal working hours. It would have been far more satisfactory if these holidaymakers had been issued with instructions at the port/airport of arrival to report immediately by telephone to their local medical officer of health on reaching home, and thus obviate many abortive home visits by this officer. It is noted that surveillance did not indicate that any of those returning from the continent during the year had been infected with cholera.

It is a matter for regret to report that no action has yet been taken to improve the environmental conditions under which the itinerant population at the Lower Race live despite very adverse comment in many of my previous annual reports.

There is still an appreciable number of the Council's own older properties without indoor toilet facilities which should now be looked at with a view to taking them indoors, and if this is not practical in all cases, adapting them so that tenants can reach them without being exposed to the elements.

From time to time objections are received from persons suffering from chest conditions such as chronic bronchitis and asthma when offered Council accommodation with central heating. The contention of persons in this category is that central heating



with the dry atmosphere it tends to produce, aggravates their complaint. This of course can be a problem with this type of domestic heating for all occupants apart from those suffering from the above complaints and the remedy lies in returning some moisture to the atmosphere to eliminate the uncomfortable feeling experienced in the throat and the tendency to bronchial irritation which can arise. It is suggested that the Council might give consideration to the provision of humidifiers in their properties which are centrally heated where persons suffering from chronic bronchitis or asthma reside.

## Physical Features

The Pontypool Urban District is situated on the eastern outcrop of the South Wales Coalfield and occupies an area of 15,907 acres. The mining areas of the district are in general away from the centres of population.

The altitude varies from 1,789 feet above sea level at Mynydd Varteg Fawr in the Abersychan Parish to 178.7 feet above sea level at the Sor, Cwmbwrrwch, in the Panteg Parish. The altitude at the Town Hall is 431 feet above sea level. The population is mainly contained in a narrow valley.

## General Statistics and Industries

Census population 1921—44,831

Census population 1931—43,910 (22,723 males and 21,187 females)

Census population 1951—42,703 (21,242 males and 21,461 females)

Census population 1961—39,930 (19,827 males and 20,102 females)

Census population 1971—37,014

Estimated population mid-1971—36,850

The yearly estimate of the district's population by the Registrar General has shown a steady downward trend over the years which has now reverted to an upward trend.

1956—41,280

1957—40,610

1958—40,290

1959—40,020

1960—39,720

1961—39,710

1962—39,750

1963—39,280

1964—39,000

1965—38,720

1966—38,330

1967—38,160

1968—37,210

1969—36,600

1970—36,090

1971—36,850

These estimates show a drop of 10.7% in population since 1956.

The main heavy industries in the district include coal mining, the manufacture of stainless steel and glass making. The main light industries include the manufacture of nylon yarn, the making of soft toys, photographic processing and pharmaceuticals. Many new industries are currently being introduced to the district.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

**TABLE I.** Showing the yearly number of live births, estimated mid-year population and birth rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1964.

YEAR	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Number of live births	544	529	551	560	556	603	694	661
Estimated mid-year population	36,850	36,090	36,600	37,210	38,160	38,330	38,720	39,000
Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.8	14.7	15.1	15.0	14.6	15.7	18.0	16.9

There were 544 live births (294 males and 250 females) assigned to this district for 1971, which is 15 more than in the previous year. This figure gives a crude birth rate of 14.8 per 1,000 population which is fractionally higher than that for the previous year. The number of illegitimate births during the year was 33 (24 males and 9 females), which gives an illegitimacy figure of 6% of all live births as compared with a figure of 8% for England and Wales.

The natural increase (excess of births over deaths) for 1971 was 42 as compared with 56 in 1970, 34 in 1969 and 29 in 1968.

Stillbirths assigned for the year numbered 12 (3 males and 9 females) and were all of legitimate birth. This figure gives a local still birth rate of 22 as compared with 12 for England and Wales.

There was no death assigned to maternal causes during the year.

The local crude birth rate of 14.8 per 1,000 population is comparable with the rate of 16.0 (provisional) for England and Wales if the local crude rate has the comparability factor of 1.11 applied to it which gives a local adjusted rate of 16.4 per 1,000 population.

**TABLE II.** Showing the births registered in and allocated to this district for 1971 according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable births.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly Births
January .. ..	11	14	25	} 90
February .. ..	21	15	36	
March .. ..	13	16	29	
April .. ..	12	21	33	} 91
May .. ..	16	7	23	
June .. ..	21	14	35	
July .. ..	16	16	32	} 88
August .. ..	17	7	24	
September .. ..	17	15	32	
October .. ..	11	14	25	} 85
November .. ..	16	12	21	
December .. ..	19	13	32	
<b>TOTALS .. ..</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>354</b>
Inward transferable births .. ..	104	86	190	
<b>GRAND TOTALS for the year</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>544</b>	

**Comparative Birth Rates—1971**

Pontypool Urban District .. ..	16.4 (adjusted)
Monmouthshire Administrative County ..	16.4 (adjusted)
England and Wales .. ..	16.0 (provisional)

**TABLE III.** Showing the yearly number of deaths, estimated mid-year population, and the death rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1964.

YEAR	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Number of deaths	502	473	517	531	451	508	467	501
Estimated mid-year population	36,850	36,090	36,600	37,210	38,160	38,330	38,720	39,000
Death-rate per 1,000 population	13.6	13.1	14.1	14.3	11.8	13.3	12.1	12.8

The deaths assigned to this district for 1971 numbered 502 (261 males and 241 females) which was 29 more than for the previous year. The local crude death rate for the year was 13.6 per 1,000 population as compared with 13.1 for the previous year.

These deaths are assigned to their various causes in age and sex groups in table V.

The cancers claimed 100 deaths (52 males and 48 females), or 20% of the total deaths for the year. Cancer of the lung and bronchus accounted for 20 deaths (18 males and 2 females), or 20% of the total cancer deaths for the year. These 20 deaths for the year can be compared with 15 deaths (12 males and 3 females) for 1970, 22 deaths (17 males and 5 females) for 1969 and 25 deaths (19 males and 6 females) for 1968.

The diseases of the heart and blood vessels accounted for 272 deaths (135 males and 137 females), or 54% of the total deaths.

The respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis and cancer) caused 62 deaths (42 males and 20 females), or 12% of the total deaths for the year.

There were 3 deaths (2 males and 1 female) assigned to pulmonary tuberculosis during the year which is similar to the previous year.

The local crude death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 population can be compared with the national rate of 11.6 (provisional) if the local crude rate is first multiplied by a comparability factor of 1.06 to give an adjusted local rate of 14.4.

**TABLE. IV.** Showing the deaths registered in and allocated to this district for 1971 according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with inward transferable deaths.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly deaths
January .. ..	11	14	25	} 97
February .. ..	13	23	36	
March .. ..	20	16	36	
April .. ..	17	17	34	} 84
May .. ..	12	14	26	
June .. ..	13	11	24	
July .. ..	6	9	15	} 61
August .. ..	14	9	23	
September ..	11	12	23	
October .. ..	14	11	25	} 82
November .. ..	17	8	25	
December .. ..	18	14	32	
TOTALS .. ..	166	158	324	324
Inward transferable deaths .. ..	95	83	178	
GRAND TOTAL for the year	261	241	502	

**Comparative Death Rates, 1971**

Pontypool Urban District .. ..	14.4 (adjusted)
Monmouthshire Administrative County ..	13.4 (adjusted)
England and Wales .. ..	11.6 (provisional)

TABLE V. Showing the deaths for 1971 assigned to the different causes in sex and age groups.

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under four weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	
B4 Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	M F	- 3	- -	- 1	- 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
B5 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	M F	2 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 1	- -
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ..	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	1 1	- -	- -
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	M F	7 5	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	5 1	- 2	1 2	1 2
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ..	M F	6 8	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	3 3	2 4	2 4
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	M F	18 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	4 -	8 -	6 1	- 1	- 1
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	M F	- 18	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2	- 4	- 2	- 4	- 6	- 6
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ..	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-



TABLE V. (continued) Showing the deaths for 1971 assigned to the different causes in sex and age groups.

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under four weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in Years							
					1- 5-	5- 15-	15- 25-	25- 35-	35- 45-	45- 55-	55- 65-	65- 75+
B19(10) Leukaemia .. .. .	M F	1 1	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms .. .. .	M F	14 11	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- 1	1 2	6 2	6 3	- 3
B21 Diabetes Mellitus .. .. .	M F	5 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2	4 -	1 -
B46(1) Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	M F	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1
B23 Anaemias .. .. .	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	1 -
B46(5) Other Diseases of Nervous System	M F	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	1 -	- 1
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M F	5 6	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	2 3	3 1	- 1
B27 Hypertensive Disease .. .. .	M F	7 7	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	2 4	4 3
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease .. .. .	M F	79 64	- -	- -	- -	1 -	2 -	8 2	16 6	31 21	21 35	7 15
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	M F	11 17	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	4 2	- -

TABLE V. (continued) Showing the deaths for 1971 assigned to the different causes in sex and age groups.

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under four weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75+	
B30 Cerebro Vascular Disease ..	M F	26 37	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	4 1	2 3	11 4	9 29
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	M F	7 6	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	2 -	5 5
B32 Pneumonia ..	M F	9 15	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	3 1	5 13
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema ..	M F	28 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 -	14 1	11 1
B46(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	M F	5 3	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	2 1	1 2
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ..	M F	1 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- 1	- 2
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver ..	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System ..	M F	2 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	1 1	- -	- 1	- -	- 1	1 -
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	M F	1 1	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M F	1 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- 1	- 1

TABLE V. (continued) Showing the deaths for 1971 assigned to the different causes in sex and age groups.

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under four weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in Years										
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+		
B46(11) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	M F	2 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- -	- -
B42 Congenital Anomalies ..	M F	1 1	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc. ..	M F	2 1	2 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	M F	1 2	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
B45 Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions ..	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -
BE48 All Other Accidents ..	M F	10 11	- -	- -	2 1	2 2	1 -	2 1	- -	3 -	1 1	- 1	- 1	1 5	- -
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ..	M F	261 241	4 3	2 1	- 3	4 2	2 -	4 1	3 7	21 10	51 26	98 56	72 132	- -	- -

Table V (continued)

Estimated mid-year home population: 36,850  
Area comparability factors — Births: 1.11; Deaths: 1.06

	MALES			FEMALES			
	Total	Legit.	Illeg.	Total	Legit.	Illeg.	
Live Births ..	294	270	24	250	241	9	Live Births—Crude rate per 1,000 population .. 14.8
Stillbirths ..	3	3	—	9	9	—	Live Births—Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate .. 1.03
Deaths of Infants							Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births .. 22
Under 1 year ..	6	6	—				Deaths of Infants
Under 4 weeks..	4	4	—	4	4	—	Under 1 year of age—Rate per 1,000 live births 18
Under 1 week ..	3	3	—	3	3	—	Perinatal mortality—Rate per 1,000 total live and still births combined .. 32
DEATHS ALL AGES	261	—	—	241	—	—	Deaths (all ages) Crude rate per 1,000 population 13.6
							Deaths (all ages) Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate .. 1.24

**TABLE VI.** Showing the deaths registered in and allocated to this district for 1971 in quinquennial age groups and by sex.

Age last birthday	Males	Females	Total
0-4 ..	6	7	13
5-9 ..	3	1	4
10-14 ..	1	1	2
15-19 ..	1	—	1
20-24 ..	1	—	1
25-29 ..	3	—	3
30-34 ..	1	1	2
35-39 ..	2	4	6
40-44 ..	1	3	4
45-49 ..	3	—	3
50-54 ..	18	10	28
55-59 ..	17	9	26
60-64 ..	34	17	51
65-69 ..	52	21	73
70-74 ..	46	35	81
75-79 ..	30	46	76
80-84 ..	25	49	74
85-89 ..	12	21	33
90-94 ..	5	13	18
95 and over ..	—	3	3
All ages ..	261	241	502

The age of 65 years at death was attained by 358 persons (170 males and 188 females), or 71 % of the total deaths.

The age of 75 years at death was attained by 206 persons (72 males and 134 females) or 45 % of the total deaths.

The age of 85 years at death was reached by 54 persons (17 males and 37 females), or 11 % of the total deaths.

## INFANT MORTALITY

**TABLE VII.** Showing the yearly number of infant deaths, live births, etc., for this district since 1964.

Year	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year .. ..	10	8	8	9	18	11	14	16
Number of live births .. ..	544	529	551	560	556	603	694	661
Infant mortality rate .. ..	18·0	15·0	14·5	16·1	32·4	18·2	20·2	24·2

There were 10 infant deaths (6 males and 4 females) assigned to this district for 1971, which was 2 more than in the previous year. These infant deaths occurred in children of legitimate birth.

The local infant mortality rate for 1971 was 18·0 per 1,000 live births which is the same infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales.

The number of live births for 1971 was 15 more than that allocated to this district for the previous year.

**TABLE VIII.** Showing the infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under one year of age) assigned to this district for 1971 by cause and in age groups.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity .. ..	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Sepsis .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Inhalation pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital cardiac disease (post-operative)	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Atelectasis ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Upper respiratory tract infection .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
All Causes .. ..	6	1	—	—	7	1	2	—	—	10

The 10 infant deaths (6 males and 4 females) were two more than in the previous year. These deaths, with the exception of one, all occurred in hospitals. Once again, prematurity at birth was the greatest single cause of infant deaths. Seven out of the 10 infant deaths occurred in the first two weeks of life.

**TABLE IX.** Showing the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, Monmouthshire County and Pontypool Urban District.

Year	England & Wales	Monmouthshire	Pontypool Urban District
1964	19.9	28.6	24.2
1965	19.0	21.2	20.2
1966	19.0	25.0	18.2
1967	18.3	22.0	32.0
1968	18.3	18.7	16.1
1969	18.0	20.7	14.5
1970	18.0	21.1	15.0
1971	18.0	15.0	18.0



**TABLE X.** Showing the number of inquests during 1971 on persons belonging to this district and the causes of death.

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Accidents in the home—falls ..	—	5	5
Pulmonary atelectasis .. ..	1	—	1
Asphyxia—hanging .. ..	2	—	2
Accident on railway line ..	1	—	1
Cardiac disease .. ..	1	1	2
Acute gastritis .. ..	—	1	1
Electrocution—hedge cutter ..	1	—	1
Colliery accident .. ..	1	—	1
Carbon monoxide poisoning			
—fire in home .. ..	3	4	7
Pneumoconiosis .. ..	1	—	1
Farm tractor—accident .. ..	1	—	1
All Causes .. ..	12	11	23

There were 5 deaths (all female) related to falls involving persons aged 66, 80, 81, 85 and 90 years.

There was one death related to a faulty electric hedge trimmer in a male aged 44 years.

There was one death associated with a tractor accident on a farm in a male aged 32 years.

There was one colliery accident causing the death of a male aged 61 years

There were seven deaths due to a dwellinghouse fire involving 3 males aged 60, 11 and 6 years and 4 females aged 33, 13, 8 and 2 years.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The notifications of notifiable diseases received from general practitioners, hospital medical officers and chest physicians during the year 1971 are recorded in age and sex groups in tables XI and XIII.

There was nothing of significant note in these notifications which includes 6 measles, one scarlet fever, 11 whooping cough and 7 infectious hepatitis. There were five notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis and two of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This is the nineteenth consecutive year during which there has been no notification of diphtheria in this district. An adequate state of immunisation in the child population is the best way of ensuring a continuance of this satisfactory state of affairs in the locality. Adequate facilities are provided within the district for maintaining a high artificial immunity state in the children and it is up to their parents to ensure that they get the benefit of these facilities.

The level of tuberculosis notifications appears to have reached a state of equilibrium under which it seems reluctant to fall. It is of note that most of the pulmonary cases notified in recent years have produced a positive sputum at the time of ascertainment. This is still a disease which is by no means wiped out, and practitioners should always consider the possibility of its presence, especially in the elderly who present with wasting symptoms.

**TABLE XI** Showing the notifiable diseases notified in this district during 1971 analysed in age and sex groups and giving the admissions to hospital. (Corrected for diagnosis).

DISEASES	Under 1 yr.		1-2 years		2-3 years		3-4 years		4-5 years		5-10 years		10-15 years		15-25 years		25-35 years		35-45 years		45-65 years		65+ years		ALL AGES			Cases admitted to hospital		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.					
Diphtheria ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	6	-	
Measles ..	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	
Scarlet fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	11	-
Whooping Cough ..	1	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	-
Tetanus..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	7	-
Anthrax ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leprosy ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	2	1	1	-	4	2	-	1	-	-	2	7	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	13	25	-	-

**TABLE XII** Showing the number of cases of notifiable diseases notified yearly since 1956  
(Corrected for diagnosis).

DISEASES	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Diphtheria ..	-	6	465	-	323	549	59	70	684	3	709	2	92	620	187	-
Measles ..	1	5	5	127	15	10	1	3	7	12	3	5	9	36	39	32
Scarlet Fever ..	11	-	-	8	25	1	-	8	8	17	10	11	3	63	31	49
Whooping Cough ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice ..	7	32	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthrax ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Food poisoning ..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Acute Meningitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leprosy ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Paratyphoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	1	2
Dysentery ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
Acute Encephalitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis:																
(a) Paralytic ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-
(b) Non-paralytic ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ..	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

The Chest Clinic facilities for this district remain located in the Park Buildings in the town centre. The Clinic is open for referrals on two whole days each week.

The facility of a static mass radiography unit is available at the Chest Clinic, 129 Stow Hill, Newport, and is open daily from Monday to Friday (9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.) with an evening session on Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Respiratory tuberculosis and lung cancer deaths for England and Wales — 1971**

The provisional death rate per million for England and Wales for respiratory tuberculosis was 19 as compared with 19 for 1970.

The death rate for cancer of the lungs and bronchi per million population was 630, which shows a further increase from the figure of 617 for 1970.

In actual figures this means 30,746 deaths (25,137 males and 5,609 females) from cancer of the lungs and bronchi as compared with 30,218 deaths (24,871 males and 5,347 females) for 1970. There were 925 deaths (672 males and 253 females) from pulmonary tuberculosis in 1971 as compared with 913 deaths (685 males and 228 females) for 1970.

**TABLE XIII.** Showing the new cases of tuberculosis notified and the deaths due to tuberculosis during 1971 in age and sex groups and by type of disease (corrected for diagnosis).

Age groups in yrs.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 +	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	2	3	2	—	2	1	—	—

There were 5 notifications (2 males and 3 females) of pulmonary tuberculosis and two notifications (males) of non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the year. Four of the pulmonary cases exhibited a positive sputum when ascertained and a case of renal tuberculosis yielded a positive urine culture for tubercle bacilli. One male and one female (husband and wife aged 65 years and 67 years) died from acute pulmonary tuberculosis shortly after admission to hospital. One active case of pulmonary tuberculosis involved a canteen worker in a large primary school but luckily no spread of infection was found to have occurred amongst the 42 staff whose chest x-rays were within normal limits and the negative results obtained from the 412 pupils who were Heaf tested indicated a similar situation.

**TABLE XIV.** Showing the number of cases of tuberculosis remaining on the register at 31.12.1971

Males		Females		TOTAL
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
47	9	28	10	94

**TABLE XV** Showing the yearly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for males and females, and the yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis since 1947. (Corrected for diagnosis)

Year	Yearly notifications of tuberculosis				Total yearly notifications of pulmonary & non-pulmonary tuberculosis	Yearly deaths from tuberculosis				Total of yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1947	16	23	5	9	53	9	10	1	1	21
1948	21	22	4	10	57	16	5	3	1	25
1949	14	17	4	3	38	16	6	1	1	24
1950	19	17	1	4	41	6	2	1	1	10
1951	24	15	1	7	47	9	2	—	1	12
1952	25	13	5	2	45	5	4	3	1	12
1953	12	6	2	3	23	2	3	1	—	6
1954	13	10	—	3	26	4	1	—	—	5
1955	8	8	2	1	19	1	2	—	—	3
1956	8	7	1	—	16	1	4	2	—	7
1957	8	5	—	1	14	—	2	—	—	2
1958	9	9	2	2	22	—	—	—	—	—
1959	10	9	1	1	21	2	—	—	—	2
1960	8	2	1	1	12	2	1	1	—	4
1961	12	5	—	2	19	1	1	—	1	3
1962	8	3	—	2	13	4	—	1	—	5
1963	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
1964	8	4	—	2	14	2	1	—	—	3
1965	6	5	1	—	12	—	1	—	2	3
1966	3	2	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	2
1967	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	1
1968	4	1	—	2	7	1	—	—	1	2
1969	4	1	—	—	6	1	—	—	3	5
1970	4	1	1	—	5	3	1	—	—	3
1971	2	3	2	—	7	2	1	—	—	3



**TABLE XVI.** Showing the notification rates and death rates for tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated mid-year population for this district since 1938.

Year	Notification rates per 1,000 population		Death rates per 1,000 population	
	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
1938	1·09	·42	·52	·07
1939	1·15	·49	·42	·07
1940	·84	·48	·58	·12
1941	1·13	·41	·74	·05
1942	·67	·36	·41	·19
1943	·99	·22	·49	·10
1944	1·34	·26	·55	·07
1945	1·88	·19	·67	·12
1946	·76	·33	·48	·10
1947	·93	·33	·45	·05
1948	1·01	·33	·50	·09
1949	·73	·16	·56	·05
1950	·84	·12	·19	·04
1951	·92	·18	·26	·02
1952	·90	·17	·21	·09
1953	·42	·12	·12	·02
1954	·55	·07	·12	NIL
1955	·38	·07	·06	NIL
1956	·36	·02	·12	·04
1957	·32	·03	·05	NIL
1958	·45	·10	NIL	NIL
1959	·47	·05	·05	NIL
1960	·26	·05	·08	·03
1961	·43	·05	·05	·03
1962	·28	·05	·10	·03
1963	·10	NIL	NIL	NIL
1964	·31	·05	·08	NIL
1965	·28	·02	·03	·05
1966	·13	NIL	·03	·03
1967	NIL	·08	·03	NIL
1968	·13	·05	·03	·03
1969	·14	·02	·06	·08
1970	·14	NIL	·08	NIL
1971	·14	·05	·08	NIL

## GENERAL HOUSING INFORMATION

1. Houses in which defects were remedied by the owner after informal notice .. .. .	8
2. Houses in which defects were remedied by the owner after formal notice under Public Health Acts ..	20
3. Houses in which defects were remedied after formal notice under the Housing Act, 1957 .. ..	NIL
4. Number of post-war council houses completed by 31.12.71 .. .. .	3,815
5. Number of council houses under construction at 31.12.71 .. .. .	217
6. Number of council houses completed during 1971 ..	127
7. Number of houses completed by private enterprise during 1971. .. .. .	111
8. Number of houses under construction by private enterprise at 21.12.71 .. .. .	118
9. Number of individual unfit houses represented to the Council during 1971 .. .. .	63
10. Number of Closing and Demolition Orders (as appropriate) made during 1971 .. .. .	78
11. Number of Clearance Areas represented to the Council during 1971 .. .. .	NIL
12. Number of Clearance Orders and Compulsory Purchase Orders confirmed during 1971 .. ..	3
13. Number of unfit houses included in these 3 Orders ..	32
14. Number of Council-owned houses condemned ..	NIL
15. Number of condemned houses still occupied at 31.12.71 .. .. .	135
16. Number of condemned properties actually demolished during 1971 .. .. .	120

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS MADE DURING 1971

(a) Number of grants made during 1971	...	...	109
(b) Amount of improvement grants for 1971	...	£66,266	
(c) Number of grants made 1949-1971 inclusive	...	1,236	
(d) Amount of improvement grants for 1949-1971 inclusive (approx.)	...	...	£294,552

The 109 grants made included 34 standard grants and 75 discretionary grants.

### Tabulation showing slum clearance progress, rehousing from unfit houses, etc., since 1957

Year	No. of unfit houses represented yearly	No. of unfit houses in Col. (2) which were vacant when represented	No. of unfit houses condemned yearly	No. of rehouseings from condemned houses yearly	No. of Council houses built each year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1957	39	4	29	21	95
1958	51	6	35	42	64
1959	182	11	85	62	82
1960	201	23	245	64	73
1961	109	5	73	65	87
1962	132	7	185	105	178
1963	120	13	143	46	64
1964	117	11	68	49	74
1965	102	3	98	94	124
1966	125	7	117	141	177
1967	94	10	144	133	349
1968	128	5	107	106	137
1969	130	17	123	57	130
1970	85	10	97	50	105
1971	63	7	110	54	127
1957 to 1971	1,678	139	1,659	1,089	1,866

Unfit properties have been represented at an average of 112 per year over the last 15 years and this satisfactory rate of progress has now taken us well into the last quarter of our slum clearance programme.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1961

The following table shows the number and type of factories in the district and the inspections carried out during 1971 in connection with the above Acts.

**TABLE XVII.** Showing the number of factories and the inspections thereof for 1971.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occu- piers prose- cuted
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority .. ..	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	171	34	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. ..	14	10	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	185	44	—	—

## MISCELLANEOUS

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

It was not necessary during the year to take action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the compulsory removal of any person in need of care and attention. It has always been our policy in such difficult cases to use all possible means of persuasion and in that way it has so far been possible to avoid recourse to compulsion.

#### **Superannuation Acts, 1937-53, etc.**

There were 38 medical examinations undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health on Council employees during the year in relation to the above. Fourteen referred to fitness as drivers of heavy duty vehicles.

#### **Staff and Accommodation**

The Public Health Department offices are considered adequate for present requirements.

The public health inspector staff has been at full strength during the year.

The two pupil public health inspectors took their final examinations during the year. One passed and left to take up a post with Cardiff County Borough while the other failed and left to seek another way of life.

I have to again acknowledge on behalf of all members of the staff a very good year's work on behalf of this Council.

My thanks are also due to the Public Health Committee under the chairmanship of Councillor J. J. Miles.

## PUBLIC ANALYST'S REPORT

I am indebted to Dr. G. V. James, M.B.E., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Public Analyst to the Council, for the following report on the work carried out by him for this Authority during the year 1971.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report, which has been classified in the usual manner for ease of reading.

### Food and Drugs Act 1955

During the year a total of 115 samples was received of which 25 were formal and the remainder informal samples.

### Milk

Twenty-four samples of milk were taken in course of sale to the public, the average composition being:—

3.62 % FAT    8.94 % SOLIDS NOT FAT    12.56 % TOTAL SOLIDS

One sample of Milk was deficient in fat (6.7%).

The remaining samples are tabulated as follows:—

<i>Commodity</i>		<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Total Samples</i>	<i>No. Adulterated</i>
Dairy Products ..	..	1	15	16	1
Bread/Confectionery ..	..	—	9	9	3
Cereals ..	..	—	4	4	—
Fruit/Vegetables ..	..	—	5	5	—
Meat/Fish Products ..	..	—	26	26	2
Jams/Jellies ..	..	—	2	2	—
Sauces/Pickles ..	..	—	3	3	—
Sweets ..	..	—	2	2	—
Soups ..	..	—	2	2	—
Drugs/Medicines ..	..	—	16	16	—
Soft Drinks ..	..	—	1	1	—
Miscellaneous ..	..	—	5	5	—
TOTALS ..	..	1	90	91	5

The adulteration rate is reduced at 5.2% and the adulterated samples are described herewith.

The adulterated samples were:—

1. Milk which was 6.7% deficient in fat.
2. Meat Pie which contained parts of a wasp.

3. Sliced Bread which contained dirty oily dough and also fibre bristles.
4. Sliced Bread which contained parts of a wasp.
5. A sample of Full Cream Evaporated Milk which was discoloured and curdling.
6. Sliced Bread which contained a fly.

### **Water Examination**

During this period the Regional Water Undertaking took over from the Pontypool Water Company and samples ceased to be submitted for examination. The Public Health Department, however, do submit occasional samples which usually follow a complaint, hence it is unwise to draw conclusions as to potability from these submissions.

### **Sewage Disposal**

Regular samples of sewage and effluents continue to be submitted by the Eastern Valleys (Monmouthshire) Joint Sewerage Board from the Ponthir Treatment Plant and the results are good.

### **Radioactivity**

The results of examination of the regular air samples submitted in association with the County Monitoring Scheme are at a low level — indeed well below the limit considered to be safe by the M.R.C. These remarks apply equally to each of the sites in use.

Once more I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the continued co-operation shown by Dr. F. J. Hallinan, Mr. J. Williams and their Staff in the Public Health Department.



## WATER SUPPLIES 1971

I am indebted to H. D. Linton, Esq., J.P., C.ENG., A.M.INST. C.E., A.M.INST. W.E., F.A.W.O., Divisional Engineer to the Eastern Division of the Gwent Water Board, who are the statutory water undertakers for this Urban District, for the following report for 1971:

The quantity of water distributed in the Eastern Division of the Gwent Water Board during 1971 was 2,273,000,000 gallons of which approximately 1,259,000,000 gallons were distributed in the Urban and adjacent areas of Pontypool, which is equal to 3,450,000 gallons per day.

Rainfall during the year taken at Penyrheol Reservoir was 1,274.6 m.m. which is approximately equal to 50 inches, considerably less than average. In spite of this low rainfall, the sources of water were sufficient and a full supply was afforded to all consumers throughout the year. All sources and treatment were in operation in the Pontypool area for the whole of the period and a high quality of water was maintained.

Experimental work was carried out at the Bunkers Springs, Blaenavon, in an endeavour to reduce the natural acidity of the water from the source. Results so far obtained indicate that a permanent improvement may be possible in the reduction of the acidity and plumbo solvency of the water from this source and thereby a general improvement to the supply to Blaenavon can be hoped for. Further experimental work is now planned.

Bacteriological and chemical samples of water were taken continuously from both the sources and consumers' premises and analyses were carried out at the Board's Court Farm laboratory by the Chief Chemist and Microbiologist, Mr. R. N. Scott, B.SC. In all, some five hundred and eighty seven samples of water from the Pontypool area were dealt with, and, in addition, daily routine chlorine residual tests were made by the plant operative.

There is no measurable flouride content in the natural waters in the Pontypool area.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

I am indebted to J. M. Williams, Esq., M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector to the Pontypool Urban District Council, for the following report for 1971.

### THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORATE

#### Control of Water Supplies

During the year under review, the public health inspector took the following bacteriological samples of domestic water supplies for submission to the Public Health Laboratories.

Source of Supply	Number	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Wells	2	0	2
Mains	28	28	0
TOTAL	30	28	2

No difficulties were experienced regarding quantities of water supplies.

#### Food Hygiene

This work continued with equal vigour to the previous years and I am glad to report that very few food premises are now not fully in compliance with the structural requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970.

The detailed inspection of all licensed premises has unfortunately not yet been completed, but is in its final stages and should be concluded during the year ending April, 1973.

#### Sampling

##### (a) For chemical analysis

The following is a list of samples taken during the year and analysed by your public analyst. Those samples shown to be adulterated were all food complaints and are referred to in this report under that heading.

Type of Food	No. of Samples		No. Adulterated
	Formal	Informal	
Dairy Products .. ..		13	1
Cereal Products .. ..		3	—
Bread & Confectionery ..		11	2
Meat & Fish Products ..		26	1
Soups .. ..		2	—
Sauces & Pickles .. ..		2	—
Soft Drinks .. ..		1	—
Jams, Preserves .. ..		2	—
Fruit & Vegetable Products		5	—
Ice-cream/Margarine ..	1	2	—
Drugs/Medicine .. ..		16	—
Emulsion Food Supplement		2	—
Spices, etc. .. ..		1	—
Miscellaneous .. ..		3	—
TOTAL .. ..	1	89	4

#### (b) For bacteriological analysis

During the year twelve samples of locally manufactured ice-cream were taken which were found to be bacteriologically satisfactory and placed in provisional Grade I.

All thirty-seven milk samples satisfied the methylene blue test which measures the keeping quality of the milk, whilst the samples which were of pasteurized milk all passed the phosphatase test which indicates the sufficiency or otherwise of pasteurization. Eight raw milk samples taken from local producers showed negative to the brucella ring test, thus ensuring that the cows from which the milk came were not suffering from brucellosis.

No samples were taken this year for excessive anti-biotics.

#### (c) Food Complaints

The following complaints were received during the year:

<i>Article of Food</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Milk Bottle	Alleged to be in a dirty condition	Insufficient proof. No action.
Loaf of Sliced Bread	Alleged to contain foreign body	Dirty dough. No formal action.
Loaf of Sliced Bread	Alleged to contain foreign body	Prosecution—fined £5.00 with £5.00 costs.

Tin of Evaporated Milk	Alleged to be unfit	Milk not unfit. No action.
Prepacked bacon	Alleged to be unfit	Not considered to be unfit. No action.
Milk bottle	Alleged to be in dirty condition	Accidentally broken. No action.
Fish fingers	Alleged to be unfit	Considered fit. No action.
Loaf of Sliced Bread	Alleged to contain foreign body	Dirty dough. Vegetable oil. No action.
Cooked Ham	Alleged to be unfit	Slight discolouration but not considered unfit. No action taken.
Cheddar cheese	Alleged to be unfit	Considered fit. No action.
Loaf of Sliced Bread	Alleged to be mouldy	Unable to prove offence. No action.
Loaf of Sliced Bread	Alleged to be stale	No offence. No action.
Loaf of Sliced Bread	Alleged to contain foreign body	Prosecution—fined £25.00 with £8.00 costs.
Frozen fish	Alleged to be unfit	Considered fit. No action.
Meat pie	Alleged to contain foreign body	Prosecution pending.
Rabbit	Alleged to be unfit	Unable to prove. Rabbit destroyed by complainant. No action.
Marmalade	Alleged to be apricot jam	Mis-labelling. All stocks withdrawn.
Powdered baby food	Out of date and alleged to be unfit	Analyst's result proved satisfactory. No action.
Loaf of Sliced Bread	Alleged to contain foreign body	Unable to prove. No action.
Loaf of Sliced Bread	Alleged to contain foreign body	Unable to prove. No action.
Pre-packed sausage	Alleged to be mouldy at time of sale	Prosecution pending.

# Condemned Foods for 1971

				Cwt.	lb.	oz.
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods	..	..	..	2	106	1
„ Groceries	..	..	..	1	24	2
„ Frozen Foods	..	..	..	1	35	0
Frozen fish	..	..	..		26	0
„ turkey	..	..	..		29	7
„ chicken	..	..	..	1	80	0
„ chicken joints	..	..	..		1	0
„ meat	..	..	..		70	11
Tinned milk	..	..	..		7	14
„ meat	..	..	..	1	34	7
„ salmon	..	..	..		2	13
„ fruit	..	..	..	1	8	5
„ fish	..	..	..		6	6
Bacon	..	..	..	3	83	4
Cooked ham	..	..	..		12	12
Cheese	..	..	..		48	14
Butter	..	..	..			7
Ox livers	..	..	..		6	0
Pork	..	..	..		78	0
Beef	..	..	..		65	8
Lamb	..	..	..	2	14	1
Rabbit meat	..	..	..		2	4
Ox tripes	..	..	..		5	8
Pork fat	..	..	..		16	8
Lambs' Hearts	..	..	..		9	0
Lambs' Livers	..	..	..		11	4
TOTAL				19	1	8

In addition to the above, 44 various frozen packets of food were also condemned.

# OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

**TABLE A. Registrations and General Inspections**

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	11	107	22
Retail shops, Warehouses	13	175	41
Wholesale shops	1	4	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	3	30	30
Fuel storage depots	—	2	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>95</b>

**Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act**

**385**

In this schedule “ general inspection ” means:

Any inspection of premises to which the Act applies, which is undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises: and “ registered premises ” means any premises in respect of which a notice under Section 49 of the Act has been received by a local authority or by the Greater London Council, and the expression “ premises registered ” shall be construed accordingly.

**TABLE B.** Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found		Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	26	13	Sitting facilities	—
5	Overcrowding	—	14	Seats (Sedentary workers)	3
6	Temperature	30	15	Eating facilities	—
7	Ventilation	4	16	Floors, passage and stairs	17
8	Lighting	9	17	Fencing exposed parts, machinery	—
9	Sanitary convenience	20	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	—
10	Washing facilities	16	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	—
11	Supply of drinking water	2	23	Prohibition of heavy work	—
12	Clothing accommodation	—	24	First aid General provisions	22
			50	Abstract of Act	30
			TOTAL		179

**TABLE C.** Exemptions.

Number of applications received: Nil

Number of applications granted: (i) Space Nil; (ii) Temp. Nil;  
(iii) San. Conv. Nil; (iv) Running Water Nil.

**TABLE D.** Prosecutions. Number instituted and completed during the year.

Section of Act or title of Order or Regulation	Number of persons or companies prosecuted	Number of informations laid	Number of informations leading to conviction
Section 48(1)	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of complaints (or summary applications made under  
Section 22) — Nil.

Number of interim orders granted — Nil.



The following tables show the numbers of reported accidents :

Workplace	Number Reported		Total No. Investigated	Action recommended			
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice	No Action
Offices	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Retail shops	Nil	6	2	Nil	Nil	2	4
Wholesale shops and warehouses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	1	1
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	Nil	7	3	Nil	Nil	3	5

#### Analysis of Reported Accidents

	Offices	Retail shops	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering Establishments open to public canteens	Fuel Storage depot
Machinery	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Transport	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Falls of persons	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Stepping on or striking against object or person	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Handling goods	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Struck by falling object	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fires and explosions	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Electricity	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Use of hand tools	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not otherwise specified	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil



No special problems or cases have arisen during the year, and the co-operation of Employers is fairly good. Up to the present we have not encountered any serious difficulties in warehouses or the mechanical handling of goods.

All premises where bacon slicing machines were in use have been given a copy of leaflet SHW 14, and at the same time verbal advice was given to the person in charge and operators of the machines, of the dangers in cleaning and operating them. Employers are anxious to co-operate in reducing this type of accident, and many posted notices drawing attention to operators of the need to treat this type of dangerous machine with respect.

Some local authorities are contemplating reorganising their covered markets, to comply with the appropriate Hygiene Regulations, but are unable to give consideration to the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, as no legislation has been made under the Act. I think it would help local authorities to set an example if the requirements of the Act were known in relation to their markets, and fit them in during the reorganisation.

### Disinfestations

The following table shows the work of disinfestation carried out during 1971.

Type of Buildings	Ants	Silver Fish	Woodlice	Vermin	Clover Mites	Cockroaches	Wasps	Bees	Flies
Council Houses ..	14	2	1	6	3	1	18	2	-
Other Council Buildings ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Private Houses ..	8	-	-	2	-	2	17	3	1
Miscellaneous Buildings ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	-	1
TOTAL ..	22	2	1	9	3	3	43	5	2

## Swimming Baths

The numbers of persons using the two open air swimming baths are shown in the following table:

	<i>Pontnewynydd</i>	<i>Griffithstown</i>
Adults .. .. .	3,122	3,105
Children .. .. .	18,416	16,008
Children through Schools ..	2,378	1,985
TOTALS ..	23,916	21,098

No particular problems were experienced during the year.

## Rodent Control

The following is a summary of the Rodent Control work carried out during 1971.

	<i>Type of Property</i>	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Properties other than sewers		
1. Number of properties in district (estimated)	16,404	60
2. a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	592	—
b. Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	485	—
(ii) Mice	6	—
3. a. Total number of properties inspected for rat and/or mice for reasons other than notification	197	—
b. Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	175	—
(ii) Mice	4	—

79 lengths Public Sewers were treated with fluoroacetamide at Abersychan, Wainfelin, Pontypool, Snatchwood and Garndiffaith.

## Environmental Inspection of the Area

During 1971, 363 complaints were made to the public health department and the work of the Public Health Inspectors may be summarised as follows:

### Food Premises (visits paid)

Bakehouses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	14
Butchers' Shops .. .. .	..	..	..	..	54

Cafes .. .. .	50
Confectioners .. .. .	34
Dairies and Pasteurising Plants .. .. .	39
Fish Shops .. .. .	24
Food Complaints .. .. .	78
Food & Drugs (Chemical and Bacteriological) Samples .. .. .	254
Grocers' Shops .. .. .	413
Greengrocers' Shops .. .. .	76
Ice Cream Dealers' & Ice Cream Manufacturers' Premises .. .. .	70
Meat Inspection .. .. .	186
Mobile Shops (Hawkers) .. .. .	10
Canteens .. .. .	23
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	—
Miscellaneous Visits .. .. .	186

#### **Housing (visits paid)**

Slum Clearance Inspections .. .. .	832
Environmental & Overcrowding Enquiries .. .. .	193
Sanitary Fittings & Structural Defects .. .. .	51
Water Supply and Pipes .. .. .	12
Miscellaneous Housing Visits (Re-inspections, etc.)	1,604
Improvement Grants .. .. .	525
Land Charges .. .. .	92

#### **General Sanitation (visits paid)**

Offensive Accumulations .. .. .	153
Atmospheric Pollution (Smoke Complaints and Observations) .. .. .	173
Caravans, Fairgrounds, etc. .. .. .	172
Drainage and Sewerage .. .. .	339
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc. .. .. .	17
Insect Pests .. .. .	31
Public House Urinals .. .. .	40
Public Conveniences .. .. .	14
Public Houses .. .. .	102
Refuse Tips .. .. .	40
Rodent and Vermin Infestation .. .. .	166
Unclean Premises .. .. .	6
Water Supplies (Sampling, etc.) .. .. .	35
Watercourses .. .. .	17
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits .. .. .	290

#### **Factories and Outworkers (visits paid)**

.. .. .	29
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TOTAL .. .. .	6,444
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## METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS

The following information was supplied for 1971 by the Council's Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Superintendent, W. R. Dadge, Esq., and recorded at Panteg Cemetery.

Month	Rainfall in inches	Number of rain days per month	Highest temp. per month °F	Lowest temp. per month °F
January .. ..	8.03	22	53	22
February .. ..	1.81	11	62	27
March .. ..	3.24	13	57	23
April .. ..	2.22	10	68	31
May.. ..	2.08	16	76	34
June.. ..	4.48	15	74	41
July .. ..	1.23	8	86	44
August .. ..	4.86	19	78	42
September .. ..	0.92	5	78	42
October .. ..	3.77	15	69	32
November .. ..	1.96	12	63	26
December .. ..	2.20	8	56	27

Total rainfall for 1971 .. 36.80 inches  
Total number of rain days 1971 154

The rainfall for some previous years was as follows:—

1970 .. 42.63 inches	1969 .. 35.15 inches
1968 .. 46.56 inches	1967 .. 49.23 inches
1966 .. 46.51 inches	1965 .. 43.33 inches

Highest temperature for 1971 .. 86°F

Lowest temperature for 1971 .. 22°F







